

RICH MEN'S PALACES,

THE COSTLY DOMICILES OF NOTED AMERICAN MILLIONAIRES.

W. K. Vanderbilt's Magnificent "Cottage" at Newport—Commodore Gerry's Spacious New York Residence Now in Course of Construction—Ames' Town House.

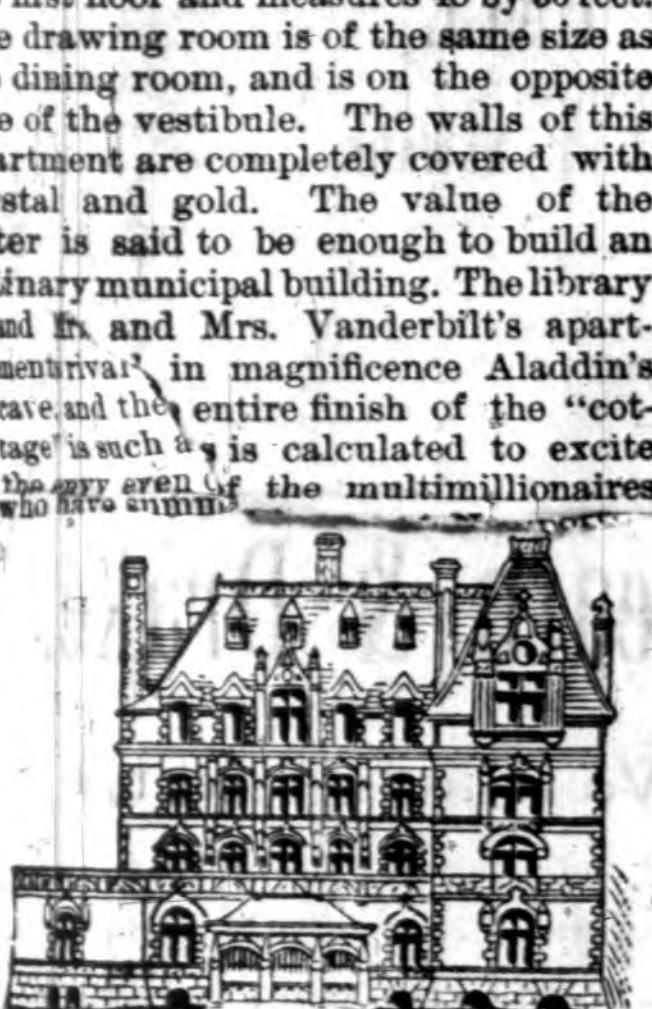
This seems to be the age of what might be called "residential competition" among the millionaires of America. Each appears to be imbued with the desire to own a home which shall outstrip in magnificence and architectural beauty all other private abodes. As a result several men of great wealth are now having constructed dwellings on which no expense will be spared.

A "cottage" so called only because it is located at Newport, and follows the cottage style of architecture, will shortly be completed for W. K. Vanderbilt. The main lines of the exterior, while evidencing great cost, are nevertheless so severely plain, that curiosity as to the interior appointments and arrangement has been excited, especially as Mrs. Vanderbilt, who has charge of



W. K. VANDERBILT'S COTTAGE. The details, has not permitted her most intimate friends, or even members of her family to inspect the building which she will occupy shortly and which she expects will be a surprise to every one, as it is intended that it shall be the handsomest "cottage" in the United States.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended in beautifying the grounds, and nature herself has been overcome by the erection of an artificial promontory, which projects for a considerable distance into the sea. The main vestibule extends 57 feet in one direction and 30 feet in the other. Its walls and floor are of yellow marble. This apartment is 60 feet high, and has a balcony upon which the rooms of the second story open, running entirely around it. The ceiling is divided into panels by massive beams and is beautifully frescoed. The dining room is on the first floor and measures 48 by 80 feet. The drawing room is of the same size as the dining room, and is on the opposite side of the vestibule. The walls of this apartment are completely covered with crystal and gold. The value of the latter is said to be enough to build an ordinary municipal building. The library and its and Mrs. Vanderbilt's apartment, in magnificence Aladdin's cave, and the entire finish of the "cottage" is such a, is calculated to excite the envy even of the multimillionaires who are entitled to it.



THE GERRY MANSION. While Mrs. Vanderbilt has been expending money and ingenuity on an out of town residence, Commodore Elbridge T. Gerry has been devising means for the erection of the handsomest city home in the United States. Work has already been commenced on the building, which will be at the corner of Fifth avenue and Sixty-first street, next door to the Metropolitan, better known as the Millionaires' club. The house will be of marble. No wood at all will be used, as the beams will be of steel. The building will be about 100 feet on Fifth avenue and 144 feet on Sixty-first street. The Fifth avenue front of the building will be given up to sumptuously appointed drawing rooms, and the remainder of the first floor will be occupied by the dining room, picture gallery and Commodore Gerry's law library and den.

Mrs. Gerry's apartments will take up the entire space over the drawing rooms. Each of the bedrooms will have a bath and maid's room adjoining. Besides the commodore's study the third floor will contain a specially constructed room for isolating any member of the family who may be stricken down with a contagious disease. The attic will be devoted to twelve servants' chambers, ranged about a large central workroom. The building will be elaborately decorated.

Frederick Lothrop Ames is one of the richest men in New England, and it is said that he aspires to be Boston's chief landlord. His ancestors came over in the Mayflower. His Boston residence



is believed to be its owner's greatest pride, and it is noted as one of the finest and most costly dwellings in New England. It is adorned with rare furnishings from all parts of the world. Mr. Ames' vast fortune is the result partly of inheritance, but principally of judicious manufacturing, railroad, telegraph and real estate investments. He is a director in some of the largest corporations in the United States. His country seat at Easton is one of the finest rural homes near Boston. Mr. Ames is assessed for \$6,000,000 of real estate in the "Hub" alone.

ALLIANCE'S GOV. MAYOR.
His Election a Surprise to Himself and His Friends.

Young men are rapidly coming to the front, but it is not often that they reach distinction so early as has Matthew B. Excell, who was recently elected mayor of the thrifty manufacturing city of Alliance, O. Mr. Excell has just passed his twenty-second year, and is probably the youngest mayor of any town of consequence in the United States. He is a Democrat, but was chosen mayor of Republican Alliance by 203 majority. When he was nominated by his party it was not thought he would be elected, and his selection as a candidate was chiefly intended as an honor to a bright young man. But a local fight on the liquor question divided his opponents and Mr. Excell won, and Alliance people haven't recovered from their surprise yet.

Mr. Excell is part owner and associate editor of the Alliance Leader, an established weekly journal. He has also done creditable work on The Evening Review and Leader. He was born in Jackson, Mich. His parents moved to Cleveland while he was a child, and Matthew was graduated from the high school there in 1888. Then he entered Mount Union college, near Alliance, graduating from that institution in 1891. Immediately thereafter he engaged in newspaper work, and says he will stick to that business. He is unmarried, and a general favorite in social circles. Perhaps higher political honors await him, for his party is seriously considering him as a candidate for state representative.

Nicaragua and the United States. Mr. J. Crawford, an American who has been residing in Nicaragua for many years, writes to the bureau of the American republics as follows: "There is great encouragement here for the extension of our trade. During the past ten or twelve months seven or eight commercial travelers from the United States have visited this country, soliciting orders for goods, when during the previous years we only saw one or two travelers in liberal orders for our products, particularly manufactured ware, and are greatly encouraged to come again. If the manufacturers of the United States will send down here good men who can speak the Spanish language and who have affable manners, they can get the whole trade. It is also an evidence of an awakening interest that during the past few months I have received a great many letters from the United States making inquiries about the market for goods here. I have received more letters during the last two months than I have received in several years before, and the same is true of all consular officers and agents. The awakening of our producers to secure orders from Nicaragua is very encouraging and I am certain that the results will be satisfactory."

Persia's Pitiful Plight. Persia is in a sorry way indeed. As if she had not been sufficiently punished by having an indecent, shameless brute to rule over her, and call himself the "King of kings," she is now tied up in a hard financial knot. She has a debt of \$2,500,000 to pay, and no money to pay it with. Russia very kindly offered to loan it to her, though where Russia was to get it from does not appear. But the Persian border is uncomfortably near the point at which Russia wishes to extend her territory. So Persia has felt constrained to decline the courtesy, and will now apply to England. She may, however, find that she has escaped from the bear only to fall a victim to the lion, for England's Indian border is also very near to some choice Persian territory, and when England finds it necessary to protect her "innocent bondholders" she usually does as she has done in Egypt, and "occupies" the country of the bankrupt permanently.

To Keep Cattle from Growing Horns.

A Springfield (Ills.) journalist says that a man living near that city has a scheme for making "mulies" out of all breeds of cattle. He has compounded a sort of salve that he rubs on the heads of calves which prevents the growth of horns. He applies the stuff vigorously once a week from the time the calf is three months to a year old, and every one to which he has applied the salve grows up hornless. He preserves the strictest secrecy with reference to the materials that are put into the salve and as to their proportions in the compound, though it is known that he uses a large amount of patent axle grease. He won't allow any of his neighbors to experiment with the compound, for he says he wants to first satisfy himself as to its efficacy.

Food from the Sea. A statistician declares that an acre of the sea will yield more food in the matter of fish in a week than an acre of the best land will yield in a year in any edible product.

DRAWS a Small Salary. Mrs. Marshal Ballington Booth is said to draw just seven dollars a week for her services in the Salvation Army. She resides in a modest little home in Jersey City.

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